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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/976,406	10/12/2001	Arnold Neracher	16669-3	3542

7590

05/04/2004

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON, KATHRYN L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3763

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,406

Applicant(s)

NERACHER, ARNOLD

Examiner

Kathryn L Thompson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 68-111 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 70-72, 75, 78, 79, 83-100 and 103-111 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 68, 69, 73, 74, 76, 77, 80-82, 101, 102 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restrictions***

Claims 70-72, 75, 78, 79, 83-100, and 103-111 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 9. Examiner further withdraws Applicant elected claims 94-96, 98, and 99 as being drawn to a nonelected species. Applicant elected the species of Figure 1, therefore, the retaining means of Figure 1 is to be examined. Additionally, the withdrawn claims are directed to a species that comprises two compressible substances, whereas elected Figure 1 only has one compressible substance. Examiner also withdraws claims 70 and 71 as being drawn to another nonelected species (Species 17, Figure 36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 68, 77, 80-82, 101, 102 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gahwiler (US 4,465,476). Gahwiler discloses a propulsion system suitable for a single-use or a multi-use injection device comprising a container and a

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primary source of potential energy said primary source of potential energy is a liquid, solid, or other non-gaseous substance (Figures 1-3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 73 and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gahwiler in view of Kendall et al (US 3,819,060). Gahwiler teaches all of the claimed limitations except wherein the compressible substance belongs to the family of polysiloxanes. Kendall et al discloses the family of polysiloxanes as being a compressible substance (Column 4, Lines 25-32; Column 4, Lines 42-45). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Kendall et al to modify the invention of Gahwiler and use polysiloxanes since polysiloxanes are notoriously well known in the art as compressible substances that are able to accomplish a change in volume.

Claims 69 and 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gahwiler. Gahwiler discloses all of the claimed limitations except wherein the volumetric compressibility is greater than 1.2 times the volumetric compressibility of water. At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have a volumetric compressibility

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that is greater than 1.2 times the volumetric compressibility of water because Applicant has not disclosed that a volumetric compressibility greater than 1.2 times the volumetric compressibility of water provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with either the measurement taught by Gahwiler or the claimed measurement because both measurements perform the same function equally well.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Gahwiler to obtain the invention as specified in Claims 69 and 76.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kathryn L Thompson whose telephone number is 703-305-3286. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM: 1st Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 703-308-3552. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KLT

KLT
Kevin C. Hermans